

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 DPW-01

OIC-02 /102 W

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R 061908Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 504

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 0765

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC, PARM, VS, VN, PFOR

SUBJECT: LAWS OF WAR CONFERENCE: PRG ISSUE

1. POSITION OF CERTAIN MEMBER STATES ON PRG ISSUE,
NOT DISCUSSED ELSEWHERE, MAY BE OF INTEREST TO DEPT.

2. ON BALANCE, BOTH SIDES LOST BY NON-ATTENDANCE
OF POTENTIAL SUPPORTING VOTERS. WHILE NON-ATTENDANCE
WAS NO SURPRISE IN CASES OF BAHAMAS, FIJI, EQUATORIAL
GUINEA, GRENADA, MALAWI, MALDIVES, AND OTHERS, WE WERE
HURT BY ABSENCE OF SINGAPORE AND SOUTH AFRICA. NON-
PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE BY CHINA AND ALBANIA MUST
HAVE BEEN PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOW TO DRV AND PRG. ALGERIA
SURELY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN CONTENT WITH ABSENCE OF BURUNDI,
COMEROON AND TANZANIA.

3. WE WERE SURPRISED BY GHANA'S CONSISTENT
NEGATIVE VOTING, AND WITH CONSISTENT ABSENTATIONS
ON EACH ELEMENT OF PROCEDURAL ISSUE BY COLOMBIA,
ECUADOR, AND PANAMA. AFTER INDICATING SUPPORT,
LIBERIA REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE, DESPITE THE STRONGEST
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OF PRESSURES WE EXERTED UP THROUGH THE LAST MINUTE. ALTHOUGH

ZAIRE STRUNG ALONG THE GVN MISSION HERE UNTIL THE DAY BEFORE THE VOTING, KINSHASA EVENTUALLY ABSTAINED ON ALL VOTES.

4. WE LOBBIED EXTENSIVELY WITH MOROCCO AND WERE ABLE TO IMPROVE ON THEIR INITIAL TWO NEGATIVE VOTES AND EMERGY WITH ABSTENTIONS ON BOTH CHALLENGES TO THE CHAIR. HOWEVER, NIGER, DESPITE WHAT WE UNDERSTOOD WERE FAVORABLE INSTRUCTIONS, AND OUR LOBBYING, DID NOT PARTICIPATE MEANINGFULLY IN THE VOTE.

5. VERY INTERESTINGLY, THE GVN MISSION CLAIMS THAT SENEGAL HAD INDICATED IT WOULD "TRY TO DO WHAT IT COULD" DURING THE VOTING IN SUPPORT OF SAIGON; INDEED, SENEGALESE ABSENCE DURING KEY INITIAL VOTES DID THE TRICK FOR RVN, AND FOR US.DALE

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NNN

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